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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 5, 2011

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Dr. Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place #101
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

On June 2nd and 13th, 2011, the Subcommittee on Water and Power in the Committee on Natural Resources in the U.S. House of Representatives held hearings on H.R. 1837, the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act.

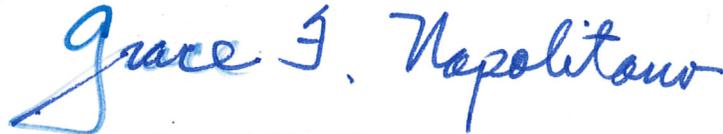
Over the course of these two hearings, we heard very specific concerns about the impacts of this bill: during the first hearing, we heard from the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of California regarding the effect of this legislation on State water law and water supply reliability; and during the second hearing, we heard from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and fishermen on the impacts of this bill on the commercial and recreational salmon fishing industries on the West Coast. After the second hearing, it remained clear that not enough information had been requested from the fishing industry, nor had there been much discussion revealing the real impact of this bill, not only on fisheries, but also on the fishing industry, tourism, and coastal economies.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council has jurisdiction over managing fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone off of Washington, Oregon, and California, and in 2008 and 2009 made difficult recommendations to close the Sacramento River fall run Chinook fishery, causing the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs.

Clearly, the Pacific Fishery Management Council is in a unique position to review and provide in detail how H.R. 1837, if enacted, will impact salmon populations, habitat, fisheries management, and fishermen, who are dependent on this iconic resource.

Given the Council's expertise on these issues, your analysis and comments on H.R. 1837 would be greatly appreciated. If you have any additional questions, please contact Karen Hyun or Camille Calimlim with the Natural Resources Committee at (202) 225-6065.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace F. Napolitano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Grace F. Napolitano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Committee on Natural Resources